



THE VERMONT LEADERSHIP SERIES

Summary about Participation

Find your voice! Learn how to advocate for change.

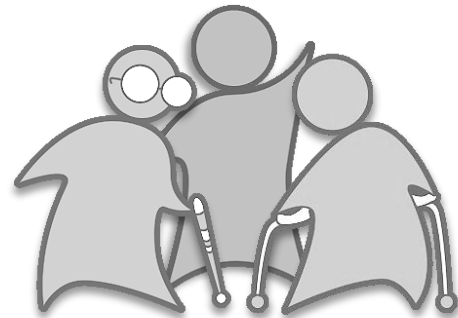
<https://ddc.vermont.gov/plan-and-projects/leadership-series>

What is the Vermont Leadership Series?

The Vermont Leadership Series is an intensive, three-part training that reflects the core values of the Disability Rights Movement -- Equal Rights, Self-Determination, and Full Community Inclusion. It has been carefully crafted by three partner organizations to graduate capable champions prepared to advocate for policies that will improve the lives of Vermonters with disabilities and their family members.

Leadership teaches participants how to:

- Develop skills to be an effective advocate and leader for systems change.
- Include people of all abilities and support others in finding their voice.
- Build relationships with policymakers.



How are Leadership participants selected?

To be a candidate you must be nominated by one of two organizations. They'll with you about program requirements, why you're interested, and the application process.

- [Green Mountain Self-Advocates](#) is Vermont's statewide self-advocacy organization. Contact them by phone: [1 \(802\) 229-2600](tel:18022292600) or email: Max@gmsavt.org
- [Vermont Family Network](#) is Vermont's statewide family support organization. Contact them by phone: [1 \(800\) 800-4005, x217](tel:18008004005) or email: Joanne.Wechsler@vtfn.org

We encourage you to contact GMSA or VFN to talk with them about Leadership and nomination, even if these organizations are new to you. They are looking for interested and motivated people. They want to help get you involved!

Nominated Leadership participants:

- Feel comfortable speaking up and listen well to others.
- Are eager to make a difference in their community.
- Are open to new ideas and “thinking outside of the box.”
- You do *not* need to know how to read or write to participate. You do *not* need previous experience working with legislators or other policy makers to apply.

What does it mean to be a Leadership Series graduate?

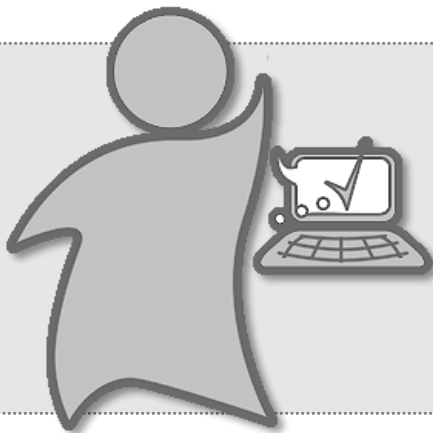
Self-advocates and family members who have graduated the Leadership Series learned how to:

- Focus their energy to be effective.
- Talk about disability rights and advocacy.
- Connect with other leaders to achieve the same goal.
- Make positive change happen in their communities.
- Apply leadership skills to get good results.
- Get fired up and excited for new challenges.

Sounds great! How can I apply?

Applications are accepted in the autumn. Visit the Vermont Developmental Disabilities Council website (<http://ddc.vermont.gov/plan-and-projects/leadership-series>) to watch for updates and download the application when it becomes available.

Please note: Space is limited. If you are not accepted, it does not mean you are not a good candidate. We encourage you to re-apply.



Help is available to fill out the application.

If you would like help or need an accommodation, you should contact GMSA at [1 \(802\) 229-2600](tel:18022292600) or

VFN at [1 \(800\) 800-4005, x217](tel:18008004005).

We are open to applications in a wide range of formats, including audio or video answers to the questions